

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070198

61

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CPR-02 SAM-01 A-01 IO-14 AID-20 SY-03 /134 R

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S/S - SRGAMMON

S - LSEAGLEBURGER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REFERENCE: ADDIS ABABA 3737

1. WHILE WE WILL OF COURSE BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE FONMIN MINASSIE HAILE IN WASHINGTON ON HIS POSTPONED VISIT, GIVEN SECRETARY'S HEAVY SCHEDULE PLUS PLANNED TRAVEL DURING NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS, LARGE NUMBER OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS WHO WILL BE IN U.S. IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIAL UNGA, AND CONGRESSIONAL EASTER RECESS IN APRIL, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR DR. MINASSIE TO DELAY HIS VISIT AT LEAST UNTIL MID-MAY. WHILE WE NOT ABLE TO SUGGEST SPECIFIC DATE AT THIS TIME, HOPE THIS GENERAL GUIDANCE MAY BE HELPFUL.

2. ALTHOUGH WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS OF U.S.-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS WITH FONMIN AT TIME OF HIS VISIT, EMBASSY SHOULD AVOID GIVING HIM OR OTHER HIGH-LEVEL ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS IMPRESSION THAT USG WILL BE IN POSITION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AT LEVELS IN EXCESS OF WHAT
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PAGE 02 STATE 070198

IT IS CURRENTLY PROVIDING.

3. FYI ONLY. BULCHA DEMEKSA, WHO TURNED DOWN POSITION OF MIN AG IN NEW CABINET, TOLD DEPOFF THAT HE LEARNED DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO ETHIOPIA THAT MINASSIE HAD SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION AS FONMIN, AND THAT ENDALKATCHEW

WOULD BE ANNOUNCING ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION WITHIN FEW DAYS. MINASSIE REPORTEDLY WANTED AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENT OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY. BULCHA NOW ASSUMES THAT WITH APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY PLUS FACT THAT MILITARY HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT MEMBERS OF PREVIOUS CABINET WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE COUNTRY ON OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT UNTIL THEIR CASES HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH BY COMMISSION, PREVIOUS SIGNALS RE MINASSIE'S IMPENDING RESIGNATION HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN CHANGED. END FYI. RUSH

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